**Report of the Second Northern Region Pig Multi Stakeholders Platform (Msp) Meeting**

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10th November 2015

Lira District

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**Introduction**

The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and SNV Netherlands Development Organization in collaboration with Lira district Local Government launched the Northern Region pig multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) on 21 July 2015 in Lira District. Locally referred to as ‘‘**Wii-otem me punu**”, this platform engages pig value chain actors and stakeholders through dialogues and collective action to address challenges and harness opportunities that exist along the Pig value chain for optimal benefits of all the actors. The platform held the second meeting on 10th November 2015 in Lira town to evaluate the progress of the platform in reference to the resolution of the first meeting.

**Objective of the second meeting**

* To evaluate activity progress of the various task forces in addressing the priority constraints identified during the first MSP meeting.
* To check whether the constraints identified in the first meeting was still relevant and need continues redress or new challenges has emerged that need critical attention.
* To inform the participants about the processes and requirements for forming pig comparative society to enable farmers/ traders start engaging in collective actions.

**Participants**

The meeting was attended by a total of 39 participants composed of representatives of pig farmers, input suppliers, extension service providers from Lira district, Pork-joint operators, live pig traders/butchers, financial service providers, Agricultural/Vocation training Institutes, Pig value chain promoters like BRAC, Villages Enterprise, Adiina Foundation, AVSI, Radio stations like radio Lira and print media like Rupiny.(See Annex)

**Opening remarks**

The meeting was officially opened by Lira District Production and Marketing officer who welcome and thanked the participants for turning up for the meeting. He commended the efforts of all the taskforce members toward various strategic actions resolved during the first MSP meeting. Most importantly he commended the efforts of AVSI foundation together with Pig production and marketing Company limited (PPM) in taking some pig farmers for exposure and training visit to Matugga. He informed the participants that pig farmers who attended the exposure and training visits came back with sets of new ideas and they have initiated formation of a pig cooperative in Lira for which he was invited and attended their first meeting. As a result of this initiation, it was seen that it would be prudent for the District commercial officer to make a presentation on cooperatives in general, in order to inform members about the procedures and requirements for formation and registration of a cooperative. He further urged all the participants in their respective capacities to play a role in revamping the pig industry through increase productivity and to improve on the quality of pork.

**Review of the resolutions of the previous meeting and program for the day**

A brief overview of key issues that were resolved in the first MSP meeting and program of the day was presented by the facilitators to focus the mind of participants. The key issue included:-

* Local name given to the Northern region pig multi-stakeholders platform “
* Practical visions, Identified constraints and corresponding ranks in terms of priority.
* Strategic action and associated taskforces and action plans

**Evaluation of progress on strategic actions**

**Strategic action1**: *Use mass media to sensitize farmers on disease and parasite management*

In regards to this strategic action, the task force led by Lira District Veterinary officer held radio talk shows at Voice of Lango and Radio waa to sensitize the masses about the African swine fever disease, its transmission, effects on pigs and how individuals and communities can collectively reduce the spread of the disease. It was evident that quite a number of listeners from lira and neighbouring districts were interested in the topic shown by rigorous calls made for further clarifications. The taskforce also made arrangement with Vision Group to book space for an article on the Pig value chain that may be developed by any of the task forces.

**Strategic action 2:** *Enforcement of laws against stray animals/Pigs*

The Task force liaised with community leaders within their areas of residence e.g Lumumba village to inform individual pig farmers especially those that are keeping their pigs under free range to confine them to reduce the risk of contracting or spreading African swine fever within the community.

**Strategic action 3:** *Control African swine fever outbreak through engagement of pig traders*

This task force is led by the District Veterinary Officer who carries out meat inspection at various locations within Lira district. He executed the task through sensitization of butchers on proper disposal of non-consumable pig parts especially at slaughtering points in a way that cannot be accessed by dogs chicken.

**Strategic action 4**: *Help farmers adopt good pig husbandry practices*.

Some members of this task force were loan officers from microfinance institutions and they executed this task by informing some of their clients who have obtained loan for piggery related activities to observe proper husbandry practices to enable them gain from the loan they have acquired.

**Challenges faced by task force members and suggested solutions for further improvement**

There were difficulties in mobilizing task force members due to differential work schedules and geographical locations of individual members. Some members were not positive when they were called on phone or sent e-mail. As a result, joint meeting was ineffective and some task force members executed the assigned actions as individual or as a section of few members of the task force.

As a way of improving communication among task force members, a Whatsapp group was created to enable task form members post ongoing and planned activities within their taskforce. This will keep all the task force members abreast of what happening in the various task forces.

*After the evaluation of the progress of each of the task force activities, the participants agreed that the previous strategic actions are still very relevant and require further attention. Each of the task forces then revisited their plan and made modification for further action to be evaluated in the next meeting.*

**Presentation by district commercial officer**

The idea to present the procedures and requirements for formation of a cooperative emanated from the effort and interest shown by some farmers who have initiated the idea of forming a pig cooperative but they had limited knowledge on formal the procedures and requirements for registration.

The commercial officer took the participants through the general understanding of cooperatives as a legal business structure and highlighted the followings:-

* The various forms of cooperatives and associated advantages and benefits
* Steps to be followed during formation and formal registration of cooperative associated cost and relevant offices that can be contacted for assistant.

He finally informed the participants that a copy of the presentation he made would be available for whoever needed it at his or the ILRI offices.

**Closing remarks**

The Secretary for Production and Marketing of Lira district (Hon. Anthony Ojuka) closed the meeting with the following messages.

He informed the participants that piggery is one of the most successful enterprises under youth livelihoods in Lira district. This was evident in Agweng and Amach sub-counties where youth groups under piggery project are performing very well.

He however advised members of the platform to put much emphasis in fighting pig diseases because it is still one of the prominent constraints in pig value chain. He informed the participants that Lira district Local Government is trying its best to enhance collective effort towards reducing the spread of pig disease especially African fever.

He also urged participants to support any effort directed to enhance farmer’s capacity to practice good husbandry like housing their animals through exposure visits and farmers to farmers learning. He conclusively informed the participants that cooperative movement is the way to go along side doing commercial crop production.

ANNEX: ATTENDANT LIST



